



I-25/Cimarron Interchange Design-Build Project



eNewsletter ▶

Colorado Department of Transportation

October 2016

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Project Milestones: I-25 Traffic Switch and I-25 Bridge Demolition

The halfway mark of the I-25/Cimarron Interstate Design-Build Project will bring impacts to the traveling public in the upcoming weeks as the project team completes work on Phase 1. While the date for this work has not yet been set, this notification is to prepare motorists in advance.

Watch for more information about the dates of these two milestone construction activities in the weekly project eAlerts and through local news media reports.

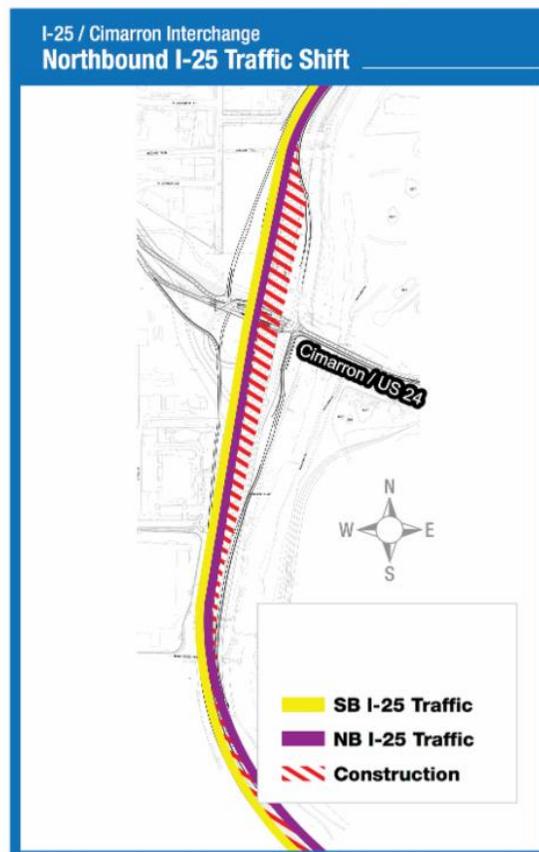
Project Schedule

- Phase 0 Construction (offline): complete
- Phase 1 Construction (mainline work) begins: completes Fall 2016
- Phase 2 Construction begins: Late Fall 2016
- Fully Operational: Dec. 2017

Stay Connected

Website:
[Colorado Info Project](#)
 Email:
dot_i25Cimarron@state.co.us
 Hotline: (719) 302-6781
 To receive project updates and construction notices, send an email to:
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Quick Links



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The Demolition of a Bridge



A successful bridge demolition operation requires careful planning and the use of proven and uniform methods and procedures. The type of bridge and existing conditions surrounding it determine the type of demolition process to be executed.

One type of demolition involves the use of machine-mounted breakers or hand-held breakers/jackhammers, which can hammer out between 300 and 800 strikes per minute. Many of the machine-mounted models are remote-controlled and use a boom for maneuverability and reach. These are especially important for the removal of bridge abutments. This technique was used in April on the Cimarron Bridge over Fountain Creek (just east of I-25), and will be used for demolition of the old I-25 bridge over US 24/Cimarron Street as well.

TRAFFIC SWITCH TO NEW PERMANENT PAVEMENT:

Northbound I-25 traffic will switch from the old onto the new pavement between South Nevada Avenue/Tejon and Bijou Street. To prepare for the traffic switch, northbound I-25 will temporarily close between South Nevada Avenue/Tejon and Bijou Street and intermittent weekend ramp and lane closures will take place. [CLICK HERE](#) to view fact sheet.

After these closures motorists will be driving on the new permanent northbound I-25 pavement and the new I-25 Bridge over US 24/Cimarron Street, marking a major milestone for the project.

I-25 BRIDGE DEMOLITION: In addition to the traffic switch, the old I-25 Bridge over US 24/Cimarron Street will be demolished this November. The demolition will require a temporary full weekend closure of US 24/Cimarron Street under the bridge from 10 p.m. on a Friday, until 5 a.m. on a Monday. The southbound ramps remain open, however northbound ramps will be closed. While the date for the bridge demolition has also not yet been set, this is notification is to prepare motorists in advance.

The I-25 Bridge is largest bridge that will be demolished as part of the I-25/Cimarron Interchange project. The temporary weekend closure will save what would

otherwise require approximately eleven nights overnight closures. [CLICK HERE](#) to view fact sheet.

"While we recognize that a weekend closure of US 24/Cimarron Street under the I-25 Bridge will be inconvenient for the traveling public," said Dave Watt, CDOT project manager, "it's the fastest and more importantly, safest way to get the old bridge down. Keeping it open during demolition would require a piece-by-piece process that would have to stretch over two weeks causing greater inconvenience to the travelling public," he said. "Community input during the design phases of the project indicated a preference for quicker, shorter duration closures in order to expedite the work as quickly and as safely as possible," said Watt.

Safety is a top priority for the project team. Precautionary measures throughout this demo operation will be taken to ensure the traveling public and workers are safe.



Prioritized Project Goals

Project goals were established and approved by the Executive Oversight Committee. The goals provide direction to the project team and to the design-build contractor team.

Project Goals

1. Maximize overall safety, capacity and operation of the interchange and the surrounding transportation network within the Project budget;
2. Complete Project construction to be fully operational by Dec. 2017;
3. Minimize impacts and inconvenience to the community, motorists, businesses, downtown and the public during construction; and
4. Achieve an aesthetically pleasing design compatible with current and future amenities and enhancements in and around the interchange.

Phase 1 Progress

April 2016 to Late 2016
Online Work

- Northbound I-25 off-ramp fill south of US 24
- Permanently closed/removed southbound I-25 loop exit ramp to Cimarron Street/US 24
- Opened new southbound I-25 exit ramp to Cimarron Street/US 24
- Temporary concrete plant will remain operational through next summer, 2017
- Fill under I-25 Southbound on-ramp
- Southbound I-25 south end - fill under new alignment

Once the old interstate bridge over US 24/Cimarron Street has been removed, the project moves forward to Phase 2. Work will continue on the northbound I-25 mainline and I-25 off- and on-ramps. Work will also include completion of the I-25 Bridge over US24/ Cimarron Street.

Setting Up A Lane Closure



Motorists have become familiar with the myriad cones, barrels and traffic shifts around the I-25/Cimarron Interchange Design-Build project, but some may be unfamiliar with the extensive process involved prior to implementing traffic control.

There are three different levels of planning that occur prior to placement of construction cones to close a lane (or more) of traffic.

1. Traffic Management Plan (TMP) - defines the strategic plan for traffic management of the project. The TMP addresses major aspects of the work for individual construction areas, phases, and stages of the construction of the project.

2. Traffic Control Plans (TCP) - generally describes all lane and shoulder configurations, including widths, traffic control signing, pavement markings, cones, temporary signals, construction access, construction parking, emergency access, work areas, geometric layout based on design speeds required, and pedestrian/bicycle requirements for each construction phase.

- Pave US 24 and Cimarron tie-ins
- Southbound south-end overlay for tie-in
- Upper Fountain Creek work
- Completed Phase 1 foundation work for the new I-25 bridge (piers, abutments, etc.)
- Demolition of the south half of the Cimarron over Fountain Creek bridge
- Phase 1 girder set and deck pour for the US 24 bridge over Fountain Creek
- Implemented southbound I-25 lane split to allow for reconstruction of the southbound lanes and to prepare for the final alignment of I-25
- Phase 2 girder set for the US 24 bridge over Fountain Creek
- Set girders for the Cimarron and I-25 bridges

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the project phasing information.

What the Project Involves

Planned improvements include reconstructing I-25 between Colorado Avenue (to the north) and the Nevada Avenue/Tejon Street interchange (to the south), and include a continuous northbound travel lane between the south Nevada Avenue/ Tejon Street interchange and the Cimarron interchange. Project boundaries on Cimarron are between 8th Street to the west and the Cimarron bridge over Fountain Creek to the east. Once construction is complete in 2017, the project will provide:

- Improved interstate and interchange operations and safety;

3. Method of Handling Traffic (MHT) - a detailed diagram which shows the location of all cones, including advanced construction signs and speed limit signs; method, length and time duration for lane closures; and location of flaggers and time duration of the flagging operation. MHT's go through a stringent approval process to ensure impacts to the traveling public are as minimal as possible.

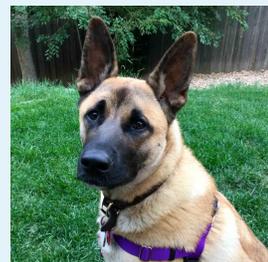
It doesn't stop there, either. The length of the closure determines the number of cones needed; and the work zone speed, taper length and lane width determines the distance needed between the cones.

Sometimes flaggers are positioned within a construction zone based on the type of lane closure. For example, when a two-lane road is reduced to one lane and traffic must alternate moving through the work zone, flaggers maintain traffic flow or allow construction equipment/trucks to enter and exit the work zone.

The final step of this process is public communication. The project team wants to ensure residents, businesses and the traveling public are aware of planned closures and traffic impacts. Public notifications include news releases, email notifications, hand-delivered flyers and updating the project website and telephone hotline. The project public information team works closely with adjacent construction projects in the area to make sure there are no overlapping detours. The team also works with the Cities of Colorado Springs and Manitou Springs to coordinate closures around large events.

Project Team Spotlight Enjoys Seeing a Plan Come Together

Kenda Schmeiser's sidekick, a 10-month-old German shepherd named Holly, occasionally tags along with her to the job site. This well-mannered pup rides along in Schmeiser's truck or snuggles up in her kennel while Schmeiser works at her desk. Schmeiser, Traffic Operations Manager, plays a very important role on the I-25/Cimarron project, and yes, Holly helps a little too.



Holly

Working in traffic control since 1983 and as traffic operations manager for more than three years at

- Improved highway alignment and improved ramps, acceleration/deceleration lanes for increased vehicle storage and safety;
- New I-25 bridge structures;
- New connection between 8th Street and Cimarron Street;
- Improved trail connectivity and aesthetic treatments.
- Reconstruction of approximately 2,100 feet of Upper Fountain Creek, enhancing stream habitat.



Kraemer, Schmeiser oversees all of the traffic control on the project to ensure lane restrictions or full closures are set up per specifications. The construction world is always at flux based on weather or scheduling impacts and Schmeiser has to keep up with

these changes on a daily basis to make sure proper traffic control is implemented. "Seeing a plan come together is what I enjoy best about my job," Schmeiser said. "I will never get tired of seeing progress." She also talked about the camaraderie of the team - "the people on this project make it enjoyable. I am fortunate to work for such a great company and great group of people."

When asked to explain something interesting that most people may not know about her, Schmeiser lit up. She went on to describe the oldest working guest ranch in the world, Eatons Ranch in Wolf, Wyoming where both of her sons, Ty and Nathan live. When she visits she is able to do all that she loves: ride horses, four-wheel and stay in a beautiful cabin by the river. "It will be a great place to retire one day."

Project Partners

- Colorado Department of Transportation
- Federal Highway Administration
- City of Colorado Springs
- El Paso County
- The Community

Phase 2 Look Ahead

Here is what motorists can expect in Phase 2, anticipated to continue through summer 2017:

- Pave northbound I-25
- Northbound I-25 on and off-ramp realignment work
- Install lighting signals and signs on Cimarron Street/US 24
- Additional Requested Elements (ARE) 2B - Provide additional lanes for 8th Street
- Northbound south-end overlay to tie-in
- Northbound I-25 bridge work
- Complete I-25 Bridge over Cimarron Street/US 24
- Northbound I-25 on-ramp bridge over Upper Fountain Creek
- ARE 3 - stream channel reconstruction and multi-use trail extension
- Begin landscaping
- Pedestrian bridges over Upper Fountain Creek and Monument Creek

Pikes Peak Greenway Trail - Gravel Section Closed:

- The gravel section of the Pikes Peak Greenway trail is closed through spring 2017. The paved

Progress Photos



I-25 Bridge - Fountain Creek Panels



Cimarron Bridge



Embankment Work



US 24 / Cimarron Street

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section of the trail (east of Fountain Creek) will remain open.

You Can Also Expect:

- Speed reduction to 55 mph on I-25 between Colorado Avenue and south Nevada/Tejon Street and 30 mph speed reduction on US 24 between 8th Street and I-25
- Narrowed lanes and reduced shoulders
- Three lanes maintained northbound and southbound I-25 during the day

Look-Ahead (more details available in weekly eAlerts). Sign up at www.cotrip.org, and then click on the bright green telephone. Scroll down the "Projects" list for I-25 and Cimarron Interchange.

Additional Project Information

For more information about the project, visit the [CDOT website project page](#). To receive future I-25/Cimarron project e-newsletters and construction notices, send an email to dot_i25Cimarron@state.co.us.

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